

# Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

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## Community Development

### Construction Projects in Design or Negotiation

**Rotonda Boulevard Sidewalks** - Three sidewalks are being funded through the Rotonda MSBU. Sidewalks will be installed from Parade Circle to Rotonda Circle on Rotonda Boulevard East, Rotonda Boulevard North and Rotonda Boulevard West. These three sidewalk projects were going to be grouped together as one project however this plan has been modified; Rotonda Boulevards East and North will be advertised as a single project and Rotonda Boulevard West will be advertised separately.

**East & North** – Bids were opened October 9, 2013. Community Development staff reviewed the bids and the apparent lowest responsive bidder was Owen-Ames-Kimball Company. A meeting was held with the MSBU to discuss line item costs. The MSBU authorized County Staff to move forward with seeking BCC approval to award this contract at the regular meeting on November 12, 2013.

**West** – We are working to finalize a plan that will reduce/eliminate utility conflicts resulting in reduced cost for the sidewalk construction. We have instructed the design engineer to send the updated plans to the various utilities for them to review. This project is on hold until we speak with the MSBU to determine how they wish to fund the remainder of the project given the current budget.

**Winchester Corridor Phase Three** – This project includes the construction of a new 4 lane divided roadway from SR 776 to Placida Road (CR 775). Construction of the Winchester Roadway project should begin in late 2013. While construction is ongoing, the final design and permitting of the intersection of SR 776/Winchester will occur. Towards the end of construction of the roadway, the intersection improvements will be rolled into this project and constructed.

Notice to proceed was established for January 6, 2014; the contractor has begun compiling all the construction documents and shop drawings for the project. We continue negotiating a scope and fee with the design consultant to modify the plans at the Winchester Boulevard/SR 776 intersection to include a right turn lane onto Winchester Boulevard North.

### Lighting Projects - Charlotte County CIP Projects (Oct 7 – Nov 5, 2013)

Burnt Store Lakes (South Burnt Store Lighting & Landscaping – MSBU) – This project is underway; conduit and screw bases have been installed and we are awaiting fixtures.

Burnt Store Road Project – (Pedestrian Features /preemption conflict with Seminole Gulf Railroad) Final timings have been received, reviewed, and submitted to FDOT for approval before submitting to Seminole Gulf Railroad. Response was received from FDOT and their comments are being addressed.

Edgewater Phase Two – FPL conducted a review for utility relocation, installation of lift stations, and final plans. Consultant is addressing potential conflicts with FPL transmission/distribution lines on plot and plans.

Harborview Road Bridge over DeSoto Canal – A new school flasher assembly has been built that is solar powered; the base has been installed. Awaiting construction to begin before flasher is energized.

Rampart and Kings Highway – Final walk through was conducted and punch list was generated. Awaiting completion of punch list before final inspection can be conducted.

### **Lighting Projects – Departmental Projects (Oct 7 – Nov 5, 2013)**

- Offsite improvements were inspected for Placida/San Casa (Dollar General Store). Waiting for final punch list to be completed.
- Installed temporary radar detection device to replace a bad loop detector at US 41/Hancock.
- Traffic signal preventative maintenance was performed at the following locations:
  - Jones Loop Road/Indian Springs
  - Jones Loop Road/Taylor Road
  - Jones Loop Road/I-75-southbound ramps
  - SR 776/Bay Heights
  - SR 776/Beach Road
- Replaced defective radar unit Kings Highway/Olean.
- Reinstalled a street light pole damaged in a motor vehicle accident at SR 776 west of Coliseum.
- Pelco and FDOT staff assisted with the installation of new traffic signal devices for possible inclusion on the FDOT approved products list.
- Responded to a motor vehicle accident involving a battery back-up unit. Removed base, made area safe and ordered a new cabinet.
- Responded to a motor vehicle accident involving a pedestrian pole at US 41/McKenzie at the request of the City of Punta Gorda.
- Responded to a motor vehicle accident on Manasota Key, N. Beach Road, in which a decorative light pole was struck and destroyed. Area made safe.
- Removed three un-necessary pull boxes on US 41/Harbor.

#### **Locates Performed**

209 requests for underground utility locates were received, generating 100 tickets for locates.

#### **Trouble Calls**

9 trouble calls received, responded to and problems of various natures resolved.

### **Lighting Projects – FDOT Projects (Oct 7 – Nov 5, 2013)**

- SR 776/Gulfstream Boulevard - Project is complete. A walk through was conducted and punch list was generated; awaiting completion of punch list by contractor and resolution of outstanding issues to be negotiated with FDOT.
- Lighting inspection was completed at Marion/Taylor at the request of the City of Punta Gorda in conjunction with revisions made to the intersection by FDOT.

### **Paving Projects**

**2012 North/South Paving Program** – This program provides for the resurfacing of roads in Greater Port Charlotte, the Road & Bridge District, Burnt Store Village, and Tropical Gulf Acres. Substantial completion has been issued for the entire project and punch list items are underway.

**2012 West County Paving Program** – This program provides for the resurfacing of roadways in Gulf Cove, Rotonda Lakes and Rotonda Sands. Substantial completion and the final punch list will be issued on November 13, 2013.

**2014 Paving Program** – This program provides for the resurfacing of roads in Greater Port Charlotte and the Road & Bridge Districts. This project is currently advertised for bid. The pre-bid meeting was held November 1, 2013 with bid opening scheduled December 4, 2013. This is a 300 calendar day contract and is expected to be awarded in January 2014.

## **Community Services**

### **Harold Avenue Recreation**

Round two of the Youth Basketball Skills Evaluations were completed on Saturday. Under the leadership of Stafford Milligan and Edwidge Cherry, 48 participants between the ages of 15 and 17 years old were led through 45 minutes of basketball drills. The Youth Basketball League is open to area youth between the ages of 5 and 17 years old. The league consists of 10 regular season games followed by a postseason playoff for youth ages 9 and older. Tipoff for the Winter Season is scheduled for Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m.

### **Port Charlotte Beach and Recreation**

Bayshore Wine and Beer Fest was held on October 12<sup>th</sup> with an estimated attendance of 450 guests and 30 plus vendors! Guests strolled amongst the vendors, enjoyed live music provided by Clique, sampled some craft beer and wine, while sampling cheese and enjoying the delicious food provided by local food vendors.

At Recreation Center we had with 4 rentals, C.E.R.T. (30), Two Neighborhood Watch Meetings (80), and a wedding reception (150) and Sweet Sixteen Birthday Party (100)

Looking ahead we have several rentals including CC Tax Collector's In-Service Meeting (62), Irish American Meeting (60), and Neighborhood Watch Mtg. (75). And don't forget about Movie at the Beach on Friday, November 15, 2013, followed by the Parkside Festival on Saturday, November 16, 2013.

### **South County Regional Park and Pool**

South County finished up with its' last week of Fall Intersession Camp. Special Olympics started its practice for their upcoming basketball trials. Special Olympics practices through the end of January. Thanksgiving camp registrations are well on their way and growing steady. Punta Gorda had its special elections on Tuesday and had voting at South County Regional Park from 7am-7pm. Monday, November 11 we will be closed for Veteran's Day.

For the week of 10-27-13 through 11-2-13, South County Regional Park Pool had 35 paid admissions, was visited by 90 pass holders and had 43 water aerobics participants. The Charlotte High School Swim & Dive Team held 9 practices resulting in approximately 450 "splashes". The Charlotte County Blue Fins held 6 swim practices resulting in approximately 300 "splashes". Charlotte High School hosted their district swim meet on Wednesday, October 30<sup>th</sup>. There were 9 schools with approximately 500 athletes, officials and parents attending the meet.

### **Oyster Creek/Ann Dever Memorial Park and Pool**

For the week of 10-31 through 11-5-13, Oyster Creek Regional Park Pool had 57 paid admissions, was visited by 88 pass holders and had 81 water aerobics participants. The Lemon Bay High School swim & dive team held 4 practices resulting in approximately 100 "splashes". The Charlotte County Blue Fins held 5 practices resulting in approximately 110 "splashes".

For the same week, Port Charlotte Beach Pool had 55 paid admissions, was visited by 37 pass holders and had 58 water aerobics participants.

### **Extension Services**

\*Newspaper Article for November 4<sup>th</sup> – "Edible-podded peas – winter delight in the vegetable garden"

\*East Port Environmental Campus Partners Meeting – November 4<sup>th</sup> – 1 pm

\*Parkside Tree Canopy Restoration Committee - Cultural Center President's Room – 8:30 am

\*Lawn Talk - Burnt Store Lakes - Turtle Crossing - 16500 burnt store road unit 102 - Left Harborside – November 5<sup>th</sup> – 1:30 pm – 50 people

\*1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Business Meeting – Com. Svc. – November 5<sup>th</sup> – 2:30 pm

\*CED In-Service via PolyCom – Training Room A – 12 noon to 5 pm – November 6<sup>th</sup>

- \*CED In-Service via PolyCom – Training Room A – 8 am to 12 noon – November 7<sup>th</sup>
- \*Conversations with Ray – November 8<sup>th</sup> – 2:30 pm – South County Regional Park
- \*Maple Leaf Village – November 9<sup>th</sup> – 9 am – “Vine Talk” – 100 people

### **Libraries and Historical**

Our Halloween Walk at the Library was hosted by over 20 local Businesses who “treated” the kids as they walked throughout the Library. Over 300 children came out for a fun, safe event!

Veteran’s Day will be remembered by the event “Petticoat Soldiers” which will be presented at the Mid-County Regional Library on November 8<sup>th</sup>, at 1:30pm. This special event examines the women of the Civil War and the roles they played as nurses, doctors, spies and soldiers. Everyone is welcome to this free event produced by the Historical Center staff.

The Library survey is still ongoing and we need to hear your voice! Over 1,400 hundred people have responded and we appreciate it as we plan for the future of your libraries. Surveys are available at each library and online on the Library website. We need your help!

Story times’ are ongoing for all ages and did you know we have a Beach Story time at Englewood Beach the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at 10:30 am. Check with any Library for more details.

E-Books are here and in each Library you will find a kiosk featuring all of the newest titles. We offer “Help for your Device” at each Library so if you have set up questions check with your closest library.

## **Facilities Construction & Maintenance**

### **Repairs and Maintenance**

Fire Station #5 in Punta Gorda requires work on the septic system, due to numerous service requests regarding sewer line back-ups. We reviewed the condition of the old septic tank and drain field. Inspections determined that the system has failed and needs to be replaced; the drain field is no longer percolating the discharge of effluent; the old tank does not contain appropriate baffles, and the system is basically undersized based on current service load and code requirements. The repairs are currently in engineering and permitting phase as we begin this much needed project.

Hathaway Park dock re-decking is scheduled to begin this month. The old deck is splintered and warped, creating safety issues for anyone walking on the dock. Our replacement plans have a composite weatherproof material being installed. This composite decking is an innovative blend of 95% recycled wood and plastic, saving 400 million pounds of plastic and wood from landfills each year. The new eco-friendly deck boards are very durable and will last for several years with little or no maintenance required.

### **Operations**

Starting this Thursday 11/7/13 and continuing through Tuesday 11/12/13 Facilities will be doing sidewalk repairs to different areas of the Murdock Administration Complex. The contractor will be repairing these damaged walkways which will be sectioned off and readily identifiable while work is being done. Please be careful when walking around the campus grounds during this time.

### **Project Management**

Phase II of the LED lighting retrofit at the Charlotte Sports Park, Visitors’ Clubhouse will be complete this week.

Preparation of the punch list for the Harold Ave concession buildings has begun so the project can be completed.

The preliminary asphalt connection was completed at the Cape Haze Pioneer Trail. The contractor is working on the site restoration and will be laying sod. Trail signage and markings will be forth coming finishing the first phase of the trail connection.

## **Tourism**

Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau director Lorah Steiner attended the Calusa Blueways Festival on the Sanibel Island Causeway, November 1-3. The annual three-day festival, coordinated by Lee County Parks and Recreation, attracts kayaking and stand-up paddle board (SUP) enthusiasts from across the U.S. Lorah was joined by volunteers Mike and Audrey Baggett, owners of It's Time Kayak and Canoe Rentals, Chris Warren, owner of Phoenix Rising Kayak Tours, and Dick Whitney, an avid paddler and member of the Charlotte County Beaches and Shores Advisory Committee. The Calusa Blueways Festival is one of the fastest growing festivals in the U.S. The event attracted 2,400 visitors in 2012 and 44 percent of the attendees are boomers aged 50-59 which is a target audience for most communities on Florida's Southwest Gulf Coast. The Bureau promoted Charlotte County's waterways, guides and rental services.